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## PENCE SUPPORTS PLEDGE

**Washington, Mar 24, 2004** - Washington, D.C.— With the Supreme Court hearing oral arguments today on the constitutionality of the phrase “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance, Congressman Mike Pence this morning gave the following speech on the House Floor in support of the phrase and the Pledge:

“Thomas Jefferson wrote transcendent words in the Declaration of Independence that our founders believed that we were, ‘endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights.’

“Abraham Lincoln, in establishing the first national day of prayer, quoted scripture as he affirmed that which had been true throughout the ages: that, ‘only those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.’

“Nevertheless, at this hour, the Supreme Court of the United States is hearing a case about whether the American people may acknowledge that we are ‘one nation under God’ in our Pledge of Allegiance.

“This case today is less about the facts than it is about who we are as a nation...a nation with a Congress that opened this day in prayer, and a Supreme Court that actually opened their work today with the words, ‘God save the United States and this honorable court.’ It’s about a government that displays the name of God throughout its buildings telling the American people that they cannot do likewise.

“Let us hope and pray that those nine jurists on the Supreme Court see the freedom of religion and not the freedom from religion in the First Amendment of our Constitution.”

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